

Application No. 10/750,402
Amendment dated January 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A disposable garment, the disposable garment comprising:
 - an outer layer;
 - an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter; and
 - wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer; and
 - wherein the disposable garment does not include an absorbent assembly.
2. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.
3. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is extensible.
4. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is elastic.
5. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.
6. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.

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7. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.

8. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable garment.

9. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable garment.

10. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction of the disposable garment.

11. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

12. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

13. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.

14. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

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15. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

16. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a lateral direction wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

17. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction and a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

18. (original) A disposable garment, the disposable garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the disposable garment comprising:

an outer layer, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter, and wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, and wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction;

wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment;

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wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter with a plurality of ultrasonic bonds; and

wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 20 to 40.

19. (original) A disposable garment, the disposable garment comprising:

a stretchable outer layer;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the stretchable outer layer; and wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer retraction value and the stretchable outer layer has a stretchable outer layer retraction value that is less than the elastic inner layer retraction value.

20. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the stretchable outer layer has a stretchable outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the stretchable outer layer perimeter.

21. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the stretchable outer layer is extensible.

22. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the stretchable outer layer is elastic.

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23. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the stretchable outer layer is liquid impermeable.

24. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable garment.

25. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable garment.

26. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction of the disposable garment.

27. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

28. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

29. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.

30. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the stretchable outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

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31. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19 wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction wherein the stretchable outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the stretchable outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

32. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the disposable garment has a lateral direction wherein the stretchable outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the stretchable outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

33. (original) The disposable garment of claim 19, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction and a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

34. (original) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment comprising:

an outer layer;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter; wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer; and

an absorbent assembly positioned between the outer layer and the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer.

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35. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.

36. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the outer layer is extensible.

37. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the outer layer is elastic.

38. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.

39. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.

40. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.

41. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

42. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

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43. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

44. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

45. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

46. (canceled)

47. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

48. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal direction wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

49. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a lateral direction wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

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50. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction and a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

51. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 34, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and wherein the absorbent assembly is attached to the outer layer along a lateral centerline of the absorbent assembly.

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